

UNITED STATES - CANADA BORDER DRUG THREAT ASSESSMENT

OTTAWA - WASHINGTON, D.C. April 26, 2002 – The Federal Department of the Solicitor General and the United States Department of Justice today released a joint report assessing the common threat posed by the cross-border illegal drug trade.

Senior Canadian and American law enforcement officials agreed at their Cross-Border Crime Forum meeting in Washington in June 2000 to undertake a *United States-Canada Border Drug Threat Assessment* to inform of the development of co-ordinated, regional approaches to attacking the cross-border drug trade.

The Cross-Border Crime Forum is an innovative Canada-United States approach to dealing with common crime problems. Senior law enforcement, justice and border enforcement officials make up the body, which has a formal meeting each year in addition to ongoing discussions between members throughout the year. The Solicitor General of Canada and the Attorney General of the United States chair the annual meeting.

The assessment confirms that illicit drugs are being transported in both directions across the border to meet demand in both countries. The report stresses the importance of collecting and sharing data and intelligence on the drug problem in order to fully understand the threat posed by drugs and that effective and strategic enforcement decision-making depends on this.

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This document and the United States-Canada Border Drug Threat Assessment are available on the Solicitor General Canada Internet site: <http://www.sgc.gc.ca> and the National Drug Intelligence Center Internet site: www.usdoj.gov/ndic. Check the site also for more information on the Cross-Border Crime Forum.

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